

## **Standards for the Administration of Article 16:** **Recreational Facilities**

### **16-101: Introduction**

- A. These are Standards for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for the administration of Article 16 (Recreational Facilities) of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code.
- B. The purpose of these Standards is to assure a safe and healthy environment within the recreational facilities regulated under this Article.

### **16-102: Certification of Pool Operators**

- A. Approved Course of Instruction  
The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, hereinafter the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee may review and approve any course of instruction that contains the minimum elements essential for the competent operation of a swimming pool or spa pool ("hot tub", "whirlpool", etc.). Final course examinations and challenge examinations shall be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner or designee.

Currently approved courses are:

- New York State Department of Health Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification Course Type A or B;

and those found in the New York State Environmental Health Manual Technical Reference, Item CSFP-233 which currently include:

- National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) Certified Pool/Spa Operators Course;
- YMCA Pool Operator on Location (P.O.O.L.) Course;
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) - Aquatic Councils Pool Chemistry and Maintenance Course.
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) Course.

**Suffolk County Department of Health Services**

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**B. Successful Course Completion**

In order to obtain certification, a candidate must pass a final written examination that demonstrates the ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained from course participation.

**C. Certification Period**

Certification received as of January 1, 1996 shall remain valid for a period of five years from date of issue unless sooner revoked for cause.

**D. Challenge Examinations**

An examination shall be available to those seeking (a) recertification, as detailed below or (b) to demonstrate a skill level obtained from prior experience. This examination shall be administered by the Commissioner or designee.

**E. Recertification**

Individuals may renew their certification by: (a) successful completion of an approved course of instruction as detailed above or (b) successful completion of an approved challenge exam designed to demonstrate the candidate's continued competency to operate a swimming pool and/or spa in a safe and healthful manner. Recertification shall be valid for a period of five years.

**F. Time Frame for Implementation**

1) *Initial Certification.* All swimming pool/spa pool facilities shall meet the requirements of this section within one year of the enactment of Article 16 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code.

2) *Loss of Certification.* If circumstances occur whereby a facility's operator is not able to obtain certification or, if the facility loses its certified pool operator, contractual arrangements shall be made immediately with an outside service having certified pool operators in its employ, and an on-site operator must be obtained within six months.

**G. Revocability**

Acceptance of pool operator certification by the Department is subject to suspension and/or revocation if serious and/or repeated violations of the New York State Sanitary Code are identified at the certified operator's facility. An administrative hearing shall be convened to render such determination.

**16-103: CPR Equipment and Posting Requirements**

**A. Pocket Face Mask**

A pocket face mask with backflow prevention to assist with CPR shall be readily accessible in every recreational facility.

**B. Signage / Posting**

Signs indicating the methods for summoning the CPR certified individual shall be conspicuously posted at every recreational facility requiring supervision other than a

qualified lifeguard. They shall be located such that patrons of the recreational facility may readily view the sign(s) without leaving the immediate area of the swimming pool or spa pool. Each sign shall have minimum dimensions of 18 inches by 24 inches and lettering of a bold and contrasting color from that of the background. An additional sign shall be posted at the entrance to the facility.

**16-104: Ventilation Requirement**

**A. Design, Operation and Maintenance**

The ventilation, heating and/or air handling equipment for every recreational facility shall meet the design, installation and operational requirements found in the New York State Sanitary Code Subpart 6-1, Swimming Pools and the Uniform Code, as applicable.

**B. Testing, Periodic Certification**

At the discretion of the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee, periodic testing and analysis of the ventilation, heating and/or air handling equipment at a recreational facility for compliance with 10 NYCRR §6-1 and the Uniform Code, as applicable, may be required. Such testing and analysis shall be undertaken by a qualified engineer under license from the State of New York. A report resulting from such analysis and testing shall be submitted to the Department.

**C. Conformance, Upgrade and Repairs**

Any ventilation, heating and/or air handling equipment at a recreational facility found to be deficient by means of the report of analysis as described in 16-104.B, above, or as evidenced by conditions in the facility itself such as persistent noxious odors, mildew growth, excessive or insufficient temperatures for patron comfort, shall be repaired and/or upgraded such that the observed or reported deficiencies are eliminated.

**16-105: Supervision Requirement**

- A. At least one Supervision Level I Lifeguard (as defined in 10 NYCRR Chapter I, Subpart 6-2) is required for each fifty yards of beach at all ocean surf bathing beaches. All other beaches shall provide supervision as required by 10NYCRR Subpart 6-2.
- B. Supervision levels at swimming pools, wading pools or spa pools shall be in accordance with  
10 NYCRR Chapter I, Subpart 6-1.

**16-106: Safety Plan Requirement**

- A. Operators of recreational facilities must develop, update and implement a written safety plan, consisting of procedures for daily patron supervision; injury prevention; reacting to emergencies, injuries and other incidents; providing first aid and summoning help. The safety plan shall be approved (as per 10 NYCRR §6-1.23[c]) and kept on file at the facility.

**16-107: Variance or Waiver**

An application for a variance or waiver of these standards will be considered under the criteria set forth in Suffolk County Sanitary Code, Article 2, §760-220.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code, the foregoing are the standards of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for Recreational Facilities. These standards are effective **May 17, 1999**.